

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1127

BY JUDICIARY AND RULES COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE IDAHO RURAL HEALTH CARE ACCESS PROGRAM; AMENDING SECTION 39-5903, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A DEFINITION; AMENDING SECTION 39-5905, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE AN UNUSED GRANT FUND RETURN DATE; AND AMENDING SECTION 39-5909, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE THE GRANT PROCESS SCHEDULE.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. That Section 39-5903, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

39-5903. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter:

(1) "Applicant" means an entity submitting documents required by the rural health care access program for the purpose of requesting a grant from the rural health care access fund.

(2) "Application period" means the time period from ~~January~~ July 15 to ~~April 15 prior to~~ August 30 of the state fiscal year for which funding is requested.

(3) "Approval" means written notification that the application will be awarded funding through the rural health care access fund.

(4) "Board" means the health care access program review board.

(5) "Department" means the department of health and welfare.

(6) "Director" means the director of the department of health and welfare.

(7) "Grant period" means the time immediately following the application period from July 1 through June 30 (state fiscal year) for which funding is granted.

(8) "Nurse practitioner" means a health care provider licensed pursuant to chapter 14, title 54, Idaho Code.

(9) "Oral health care provider" means a dentist or dental hygienist licensed pursuant to chapter 9, title 54, Idaho Code.

(10) "Physician assistant" means a health care provider licensed pursuant to chapter 18, title 54, Idaho Code.

(11) "Primary care" means the provision of professional comprehensive health services, including oral health care services, that includes health education and disease prevention, initial assessment of health problems, treatment of acute care and chronic health problems, and the overall management of an individual's or family's health care services as provided by an Idaho licensed internist, obstetrician, gynecologist, pediatrician, family practitioner, general practitioner, dentist, dental hygienist, nurse practitioner or physician assistant. It provides the initial contact for health services and referral for secondary and tertiary care.

(12) "Primary care health professional shortage area" means a geographic area or population group which the U.S. secretary of health and human services has determined is underserved by primary care health professional(s).

(13) "Medically underserved area" means a geographic area which the U.S. secretary of health and human services has determined is underserved by primary care health professional(s).

(14) "Rural health care access grant" means a grant awarded pursuant to this chapter.

(15) "Rural health care access program" means the program that administers the rural health care access fund.

SECTION 2. That Section 39-5905, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

39-5905. SCOPE OF GRANT SUPPORT. The board may award grants, in accordance with the procedures and criteria in this chapter, to governmental and nonprofit entities for the purpose of improving access to primary health care services to rural and underserved areas.

(1) Individual grant awards will be limited to a total of thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000), direct and indirect costs, per year.

(2) Applicants may propose projects for funding for up to three (3) years.

(a) Continued funding for projects beyond the first grant year, years two (2) and three

(3), shall be subject to the appropriation of funds and grantee performance.

(b) No project may be funded for more than a total of three (3) years.

(c) Any unused grant funds shall be returned to the rural health care access fund by the applicant no later than ~~June~~ August 30 of the grant period.

(3) No funds awarded under a grant may be used for purchase, construction, renovation or improvement of real property or for projects which are solely or predominantly designed for the purchase of equipment. Use of funds for the purchase of equipment may be allowed when such equipment is an essential component of a program. However, the purchase of equipment may not represent more than forty percent (40%) of the total annual share of a proposal. Indirect costs shall not exceed fifteen percent (15%) of the total project.

SECTION 3. That Section 39-5909, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

39-5909. GRANT AWARD SCHEDULE. The board shall conduct the grant process in accordance with the following schedule:

(1) The rural health care access director will generate, and make available, a list of areas eligible for potential grant assistance no later than ~~November~~ May 15 prior to the application period.

(2) The rural health care access director shall develop an application form and make guidance available no later than ~~January~~ July 15 which shall initiate the application period prior to the grant period.

(3) The completed application shall be submitted no later than ~~April 15~~ August 30 of the application period.

(4) The board shall issue notification to every applicant regarding the disposition of their grant request by ~~June 15~~ October 30 prior to the grant period.

(5) Funds for approved grants shall be disbursed during ~~July~~ November of that grant period or over the course of the current grant year as funds become available.